

California GARDEN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2002

Volume 93 No. 1

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HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

In Jan. and Feb.

SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN is sponsoring several interesting classes there and some trips and tours. For information: 805/682-4726.

Jan. 3 Thur.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Class on "Butterfly Gardening." A lepidopterist and a member of the Native Plant Society will teach how to build and maintain a butterfly-friendly garden. 7-9 p.m. Members \$12, nonmembers \$15. Register at www.sdnhm.org or 619/232-3821 ext. 203.

Jan. 5 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Jan. 5 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Pruning Fig, Pomegranate, Persimmon. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Jan. 5-6 Sat.-Sun

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY Rose Pruning Demonstration, Balboa Park. 9:00 a.m.-noon, bring gloves and pruners. Plant sale both days. Contact Julia Cooper, 858/457-5038.

Jan. 6 Sun.

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY Annual Pruning Demonstration. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Hands on demo with Consulting Rosarians for additional rose care information. At 11252 Horizon Hills Dr., El Cajon. 619/440-4174 Free.

Jan. 7 Mon.

CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2001-2002 Brenda Parsons speaking on "English Designs." Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 at the door. Info: 760/749-9608.

Jan. 10 Thurs.

THE HUNTINGTON "Aloes in Bloom." Garden talk and plant sale, 2:30 p.m. 1150 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission.

Jan. 12 Sat.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Class on "Terrariums: A World in Miniature." Design a tiny Chinese-inspired landscape with garden path, twig trees, and hills for a centerpiece of Zen. Members \$40, nonmembers \$45, includes materials. 10:00 a.m.-noon at Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. Register at www.sdnhm.org or 619/232-3821 ext. 203.

Jan. 12 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Pruning Bare-Root Fruit Trees. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Jan. 16 Wed.

THE HUNTINGTON "All About Aloe." Adult workshop by the curator of the Desert Garden. 3:00-5:00 p.m. Members \$20. Nonmembers \$30. Advance registration required. 626/405-2128.

Jan. 19 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open. See Jan. 5 for details.

Jan. 19 Sat.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB "A Day in the Garden." 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tom Buchter will present lecture and slides on "Creating Design Unity for House & Garden." \$45. includes lunch and gift. Mail check to RSFGC, c/o Donna Ferrier, P.O. Box 1624, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067 before Jan. 16. 858/759-9611.

Jan. 19 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Pruning Roses. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Jan. 19-20 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY Winter Orchid Show. Sat. 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Jan. 25-26 Fri.-Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON Conference "The Fair Majestic Paradise of Stowe: The Restoration of an Eighteenth-Century Garden." 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. \$20 (graduate students free). Call 626/405-2194 or e-mail cpowell@huntington.org.

(continued on page 4)



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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2002

FEATURES

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------|
| 7 | Growing Violets | B. Newton |
| 8 | Tips on Passiflora Propagation | N. Gadler |
| 10 | Favorite Foliage Plants for Arranging | C. Veech |
| 12 | Chocolate Flowers: The Way to a Gardener's Heart | P. Pawlowski |
| 14 | <i>Nandina domestica</i> | B. Newton |
| 15 | Propagation of Some Easy Natives | J. De Hart |
| 20 | Crown-of-Thorns | B. Jones |
| 21 | Growing Peas on the Coast | A. Dawson |
| 22 | Ask a Master Gardener | M. Brigadier |
| 23 | Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden in Portland | R. Horowitz |
| 25 | More All-America Selections® for 2002 | All-America Selections |

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------|
| 2 | Horticultural Calendar | L. Berger |
| 5 | Gardening Classes | Grossmont Adult Education |
| 5 | San Diego Floral Association Classes Coupon | Staff |
| 6 | Gleanings | B. Jones |
| 9 | Future San Diego Floral Association Bus Tour | J. Ray |
| 16 | Now Is the Time | M. Truby |
| 23 | San Diego Floral Association Classes | M. Walsh |
| 27 | Book Reviews | R. Cox |
| 29 | Affiliates | L. Beyerle |
| 31 | Book Order Blank | Staff |

COVER Illustration of *Euphorbia milii* (crown-of-thorns) by and copyrighted by Alison Walsh. The cover is compliments of Just One Miracle, a stationary business where 100% of the profits go to find a cure for ovarian cancer, see ad on page 7.

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BALBOA PARK VISITORS CENTER, HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY, 1549 El Prado, San Diego CA 92101
CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, 818/447-8207, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA 91006
MISSION HILLS NURSERY, 298-2808, 1525 Fort Stockton Drive, San Diego CA 92103
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WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 224-8271, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego CA 92110
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 513-4900, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway CA 92064-6847

FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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**HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR, CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 2**

Jan. 26 Sat.

S.D. COUNTY BRANCH CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY Annual Orchid Auction.
12:00-4:00 p.m. Wommen's Club of Carlsbad,
3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 760/753-6952. Free.

Jan. 26 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on
Camellia Plants, Choices and Care. 9 a.m. 3642
Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Jan. 27 Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON 2nd Annual Great
Rosarians of the World Series: "A Life of
Roses." \$15 advance registration and payment
required. 626/405-3507.

Feb. 2 Sat.

**★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
LIBRARY** will be open. See Jan. 5 for details.

Feb. 2-3 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY Annual
Show and Sale. Entries: 8:00-10:00 a.m. Visitors:
Sat. 12:00-4:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Feb. 2 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on
Soil, Mulches, Amendments. 9 a.m. 3642
Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Feb. 4 Mon.

CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2001-2002
"The Ladies of Ensenada-Designs from Mexico."
Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St.,
Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 at the door.
Info: 760/749-9608.

Feb. 9 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on
Spring Bulbs. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San
Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Feb. 9-10 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY Exhibit,
Wild Animal Park. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. both
days. Free with general admission.

Feb. 9-10 Sat.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON 30th Annual Camellia
Show. Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m., Sun. 10:30 a.m.-4:30
p.m. 1150 Oxford Road, San Marino.
626/405-2100. General admission.

Feb. 14 Thurs.

THE HUNTINGTON "A Love Affair with
Begonias." Garden talk, 2:30 p.m. 1150 Oxford
Road, San Marino. 626/405-2100. Lecture free
with admission.

Feb. 16 Sat.

**★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
LIBRARY** will be open. See Jan. 5 for details.

Feb. 16 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on
Cymbidium Orchid Care. 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise
St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Feb. 16-17 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY 5th
Annual Mushroom Fair including displays of local
mushrooms and fungi, cooking demos,
horticulture instruction, and book sales.

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Balboa Park,
Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Feb. 19 Tues.

**★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING** featuring "Trees and
Gardens of Balboa Park" with Kathy Puplava,
Horticulturist for Balboa Park. 10:00 a.m. Balboa
Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 619/232-5762.
Free.

Feb. 20 Wed.

THE HUNTINGTON "Camellias 101." Adult
workshop 3:00-5:00 p.m. Members \$20. Non-
members \$25. Advanced registration required.
626/405-2128.

Feb. 22-24 Fri.-Sun.

**4TH ANNUAL SAN DIEGO INTERIOR
DESIGN & LANDSCAPE EXPO** at San Diego
Convention Center, 111 W. Harbor Drive. Fee.

Feb. 23 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on
Spring Color/Container Gardens. 9 a.m. 3642
Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Mar. 1-3 Fri-Sun.

**CGCI, PALOMAR DISTRICT STANDARD
FLOWER SHOW "THE COLORS OF VAN
GOGH."** Part of the 17th Annual Spring
Home/Garden Show at Del Mar Fairgrounds.
Friday 12-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.,
Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10 (Children
12 and under free). 760/727-7614.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Docent tours with reservations. Fee.
619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in
Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyoneer Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June.
619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times and directions. Free.

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY.

Third Friday of every month from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or (www.qbgardens.com). General admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$10 adults, \$8.50 seniors, \$7 students (12-18), under 12 and members free. Group rate (10+) \$8. First Thursday of each month free to all visitors. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

GARDENING CLASSES

BETTY NEWTON

8-WEEK COURSE

Cutting Your Water Bill: Using the Right Plants, the Right Way.

Beginning Jan. 8 Tues. P.M.

Tuesday 6:20 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Grossmont High School, Room 330, 1100 Murray Dr., La Mesa. 619/644-8218. \$15.

Beginning Jan. 10 Thurs. A.M.

Thursday 8:50 a.m.-Noon. Foothills Adult Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$15.

JOYCE GEMMELL

8-WEEK COURSE

Beginning Jan. 17 Thurs. P.M.

Fruit Tree, Vine, and Berry, Tree Planting, Pruning, Grape and Cane Berries
Thursday 6:00-9:10 p.m., Santana Adult Center, Room 1305, 9915 N. Magnolia Ave., Santee. 619/596-3657. \$15.

6-WEEK COURSE

Beginning Feb. 1 Fri. A.M.

Summer Vegetable Gardening
Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:10 p.m. Foothills Adult Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$15.

CONNIE BECK

12-WEEK COURSE

Home Landscape I - Basics of Organic Gardening

Beginning Jan. 9 Wed. P.M.

Wednesday 6:30-8:30 p.m., Santana Adult Center, Room 1305, 9915 Magnolia, Santee. 619/749-4059 or 619/596-3657. \$22.

Deadline for submission to
HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for MARCH-APRIL issue is JANUARY 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

SEE PAGE 23 SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOC. CLASSES

Three-Day Flower Arranging Class

- ☐ \$45 series, members, February 5, 19, 26
- ☐ \$50 series, nonmembers, February 5, 19, 26
- ☐ \$45 series, members, April 16, 23, 30
- ☐ \$50 series, nonmembers, April 16, 23, 30

Basic Pine Needle Class: A Coiled Basket

- ☐ \$20, February 12

Gourd Etching and Burning

- ☐ \$30, March 5

Amount enclosed \$ Make check payable to San Diego Floral Association. Send to San Diego Floral Assoc., 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101-1622

Name

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Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

ANT SPRAY . . .

Both Bob and Mort say that the best ant spray is common commercial window cleaner. Bob says it's the ammonia that makes it so effective. The best part of using window cleaner is that the mess can be cleaned up so effectively and efficiently.

HORTICULTURAL TRIVIA . . .

In 1774, in the town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, the first American-made metal shovel was made. It remained a family owned business for the next 181 years. Prior to that time the early metal shovels with wooden handles were imported from England and a heavy tariff was charged.

The Matilija poppy is named for Matilija Creek and Springs in Ventura County, California.

The Easter Lily, *Lilium longiflorum*, was discovered in the 1880s on the southern island of Japan.

APPLE HISTORY . . .

The June 2001, *The Garden*, the journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, had an interesting article about the search to find the origin of the eating apple. It is being done by botanist Barrie Juniper of Oxford University. The origin of the sweet eating apple, *Malus domestica*, was found growing in a wild orchard in a valley in a remote, mountainous area of northwest China, formerly inaccessible Kazakhstan. His theory about how this fruit migrated from this area, where it is thought to have originated 4.5 million years ago, is fascinating. (We have a

copy of the magazine in SDFA's library in Casa del Prado.)

The theory is that the plant was first spread by birds and animals. Trading routes we know as "silk roads" were used for thousands of years. The apple was probably brought to western Europe about 6000 years ago by traders. It was introduced to Britain by the Romans in the 1st Century. (The apple was brought to North America in the 1600s by the earliest European settlers.) In case you wonder how this theory of migration was developed, the "trail" was verified by DNA testing.

Apples cannot be grown from cuttings, so to have a special variety grafting must be done. Historical records reveal that the eating apple was probably domesticated by 4000 B.C. It is known that grafting was done but where or when it originated is unknown. The ancient Greeks knew the practice and passed it on to the Romans, and the Romans carried the knowledge and the plant with them as they moved through Europe to Britain.

It is felt that many other fruits and nuts may have originated in this remote area of Asia. With the help of DNA, botanists are hoping to find more.

CUT FLOWERS . . .

In attempting to discover methods of prolonging the life of cut flowers, it has been found that a single flower in a vase lasts longer than a bunch of the same flowers. This may be due to the quicker polluting of the water. It is known that flowers do last longer if given

frequent changes of clean water.

TABLE GRAPES & RAISINS . . .

Even though sultanas, seedless grapes, have been known for centuries (originated in western Asia), the history in California begins in the late 1800s when William Thompson obtained cuttings of *Sultania bianca*. These first grapes were small, seedless and were dried as raisins. Many improvements were made and by the 1930s we were seeing the sweet 'Thompson Seedless' table grape on the market. By the 1950s black and red seedless grapes had been introduced. The 'Flame Seedless' was introduced in 1973. Today more than 90% of the grapes consumed in California are seedless. 85% of the State's table grape crop is produced in the San Joaquin Valley.

There are other table grapes that can be found in markets, but not in large amounts. The 'Flame Tokay', a large, dark red grape was once the most popular table grape. It is a variety from North Africa. It was introduced to California in 1861. The 'Lady Finger', introduced in the 1850s, is also a popular, late-season grape. The 'Muscat of Alexandria', from North Africa, was introduced in 1852. It probably dates to the Roman Empire or ancient Egypt. It is a large, very sweet grape that is golden-yellow tinged with copper when ripe. It is famed for use in producing wine and raisins as well as being sold as a table grape.

Another bit of grape lore — California produces 97% of the nation's crop of table grapes.

GROWING VIOLETS

BY BETTY NEWTON

SOMEONE ASKED HOW TO grow violets. In my experience, they are almost too easy to grow. My grandmother gave violets to my mother, and they grew on the north side of our La Mesa home beside the steps. At Whaley House Museum (San Diego Avenue and Harney Street in Old Town San Diego), I planted some of those violets on the north side of the granary porch. They spread happily. Soon they were growing out in full sun, crowding through the rose canes. Those we thinned out. Repeatedly.

So to start with, I would say violets are easy to grow if they are in soil that gets water periodically and fertilizer occasionally. Pure clay and coarse decomposed granite however probably present the problems respectively of 1) too little air in the soil or 2) too much air in the soil. Mix in organic matter.

About once a year your violets may look absolutely terrible, yellowed and thoroughly sick. Either you fertilized them with too much nitrogen or they suffered a bad red spider mite attack. Learn to use a light hand in fertilizing and water well before and after. As for the yellowed leaves that make the garden itself look terrible,

rip or cut them off. The violets will be back in lovely form in a month or two.

If you want to share your plants, the volunteers at Whaley House Museum found that 1½" baby seedlings, which develop profusely beneath the heart-shaped leaves, transplant easily compared with larger plants. □



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TIPS ON PASSIFLORA PROPAGATION

BY NICHOLAS N. GADLER

PEOPLE OFTEN ASK how I became hooked on passion flowers. Actually, it was the fruit that drove me to addiction. While on vacation in Hawaii, my wife and I toured the Ono Farms organic tropical fruit farm in Hana on the island of Maui. We sampled many strange and exotic fruits that day but the one that really hit home was the "sweet lilikoi" (Hawaiian for passion fruit). Imagine the most incredible, wild, refreshing, tropical, sweet yet sour, fruit taste possible; multiply that by ten, and that is about the only way to describe it. There is nothing to compare it to...nothing that tastes even remotely like it. I had eaten passion fruit before and was not impressed but this species (*Passiflora laurifolia*) was nothing like the typical passion fruit found here in San Diego. It was absolutely delicious and in a taste class all by itself.

So I brought some seeds back and began propagating them. To my dismay, only two seeds out of two hundred germinated. I then discovered that *P. laurifolia* does not do well outdoors in San Diego, is not self fertile, and takes seven years to bloom and produce fruit. The good news is that there are over six hundred types of *Passiflora*, many of which thrive in San Diego, and a few are even considered to be better tasting than

P. laurifolia. The best of the best are: *P. edulis* 'Frederick', *P. ligularis*, *P. platyloba*, and *P. mollissima*.

The average passion fruit will contain about 250 seeds. These are typically dark (brown to black in color), small (2mm to 5mm), flat, and somewhat heart shaped. The *testa* (seed coat) has numerous punctate reticulations giving the seed an almost pitted appearance.

PROPAGATION

It has long been reputed that *Passiflora* is among the most difficult genera to germinate from seed. It has been my experience that while this is certainly true, there are several techniques that can be used to maximize germination rates.

The first thing to note is the age of the seeds. Seeds should be started as soon as possible. The older the seeds, the much less viable they become. For example, seeds six months or older are considered very old, and germination rates will be extremely low. Also, be sure to use sterile soil. I use Whitney Farms sterile seed starting mix. This is critical, as most non-sterile soils harbor fungus that will destroy your seeds.

One of the most inexpensive (\$5.99) and convenient methods I have found to aid in *passiflora* germination is

to use a "mini-greenhouse with humidome". This is a completely self-contained, multi-celled flat of plastic mini pots, by Jiffy, which fit into a plastic pan that retains water and is covered with a clear plastic top that retains humidity. Watering from the bottom is essential to prevent the seeds from being disturbed during germination. This unit allows you to water from the bottom by placing water in the pan instead of on top of the soil. It is also a good idea to use distilled or sterile water. The water also should be warm (about 80°F) to prevent shock.

Another item that is often useful, depending on the time of year, is a heat mat. Most heat mats do not let you regulate the temperature, so you may have to place an in-line rheostat to control the temperature



The exotic 'Black Knight' (*Passiflora edulis*) that Charles Robinson grows threatens to take over one shade structure. He got the plant from Kartuz Greenhouse of Vista.

accurately. The ideal seed-starting temperature for most passiflora is around 80°F. While some varieties like it warmer and some like it cooler, 80° will allow for germination of almost all varieties.



The seed tray of Humidome without the clear covering.

Most nurseries do not carry everything mentioned above, and I have searched nearly all of them. Walter Andersen is the only nursery I have found that has everything you will need, in stock and readily available. Once you have gathered the above-mentioned items and are ready to begin, here are a few more tips: Wash your hands thoroughly before placing the soil into the cells. Place the soil, and then moisten it with the distilled or sterile water. Place it on the 80-degree heat mat. Take your passiflora seeds and very carefully use a fingernail file gently to file off the edge on one side of the seed until you see a small color change. Next, soak the seeds in 80-degree sterile or distilled water for 24 to 48 hours. Place on a heat mat to maintain 80-degree temperature. After soaking, carefully sow the seeds just below the surface, and then cover with a very thin layer of sharp, sterile sand. The sand will help reduce the chances of fungal attack and also will retain heat. Place the humidome in a southwest facing window, taking care to keep the temperature at a constant 80°F. Keep the soil moist but not over moist. Next, wait...and wait...and wait! It can take as long as three to six months for germination to occur, but usually you will see results within six weeks.

Once your seeds have started, a new series of challenges will present themselves; however, these will be far easier to overcome than germination itself. An excellent source of information on the subject can be

found in *Passion Flowers*, by John Vanderplank. The best source I have found for passiflora seeds is Direct Seed Company. They have the "largest selection in the entire world." The owner, Mark Cooper, is a fountain of knowledge and is happy to help you when questions arise. They can be found at www.members.aol.com/pasiflora/

Take care, good luck, and beware...growing passion flowers can become very addictive!□

Nicholas N. Gadler, D.D.S. is a San Diego native who has collected seeds since he was a child on vacation. He attended SDSU, USC, and the University of Texas, Houston for a degree in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

UPCOMING BUS TOUR

BY JERRY RAY

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION will sponsor a bus tour to the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum and the Fullerton Arboretum. Date to be announced.

The Homestead Museum is a six-acre historic site dating from the era when California was still part of Mexico. It features the Workman House, an 1870s country home constructed around an 1840s adobe and a 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival mansion noted for its architectural crafts.

The grounds include El Campo Santo, one of the region's oldest private cemeteries, containing the remains of Pio Pico, the last governor of Mexican California. Also, there are a variety of award-winning garden settings.

The Fullerton Arboretum is located on 26 acres divided into three growing zones, Temperate, Tropical and Arid. Conifers, palms, drought-tolerant mediterranean-type vegetation, man-made lakes, and a Carnivorous Plant Bog make one forget the location is on the campus of California State University, Fullerton.

Heritage House is the Eastlake Victorian cottage built by Dr. George C. Clark in 1894. Gardens about the cottage reflect interests and plantings of the era.

Both sites will provide docents for our enrichment. Cost of the tour will be \$40.00 with lunch on our own. Plan to enjoy this spring trip up north and into history.

For information call Jerry Ray at 619-232-2661.□

FAVORITE FOLIAGE PLANTS FOR ARRANGING

BY CARVILL VEECH

IT'S 5:15 IN THE afternoon and guests are arriving at 6:00. You need a table centerpiece but there is no time to shop. Oh, dear.

Now it is early on a Saturday morning and the flower show entries are due at 10:00. The shops are closed. You desperately need some foliage to finish a design before the deadline.

If you have done some practical gardening, you will be able to step out to your garden and pick just what you need. It does not have to be unusual or exotic, but it should be healthy.

In San Diego County, our mild climate permits us to garden year around and to grow a myriad of flowers and foliage suitable for flower arranging. In most home gardens there are microclimates that permit a wide variety of plantings especially when containers are included.

Members of the Flower Arrangers Guild of the San Diego Floral Association often grow favorite or hard-to-get materials. Dorothy Driscoll, who creates consistently beautiful designs, emphasizes the importance of growing foliage plants. For flowers and foliage, she grows bird-of-paradise, camellia, and hydrangea. She specializes in iris—tall-bearded, spuria and Louisiana. The dusty-gray foliage of *Senecio cineraria*, dusty miller, is another of her favorites.



Leucadendron argenteum 'Silver tree'

Annette Reid creates lovely mass designs using flowers from her garden including alstroemeria, tulip, brightly colored ranunculus, and Dutch iris. She particularly enjoys using and growing variegated foliage in green and white or green with yellow. Polly Wigham grows *Leucadendron* 'Safari Sunset' in her garden near Balboa Park.

In a hilly garden in Mission Hills, Marie Walsh grows citron 'Buddha's Hand' for her creative designs. Her *Leucadendron argenteum* 'Silver Tree' has beautiful silver-green foliage with a vase life of a month or more. Kay Yarnell, who is a Professor Third Class in the Ikenobo School of Ikebana and a long time Guild member, considers her "mainstays" to be aspidistra foliage, curly willow, and the variegated foliage of lace-cap hydrangeas. The flower she uses most often is *Strelitzia reginae*. In the spring, her flowering quince produces branches of coral-covered buds, and in the summer, a golden privet shrub provides beautiful golden foliage.

Most flower arrangers do not and cannot grow all the plant materials they use. Farmers' markets, florists, friends, flower markets, and supermarkets are all good sources of flowers but not always of foliage. Growing foliage is probably more important because of its usefulness to flower arrangers than growing flowers.

My personal favorites in foliage for a coastal San Diego garden include scented-geranium foliage of deeply notched leaves with creamy white edges and aspidistra leaves, either dark green or variegated. Some of my most valuable foliage that can be grown in the coastal areas include, but are not limited to the following. I have indicated good container plants with a (C).

Small leaves

- *Buxus* (boxwood)—small-leaved evergreen for pots or hedges
- *Nandina domestica* (heavenly bamboo)—6-8', lovely color changes with seasons, useful red berries

Medium leaves

- *Camellia japonica*—dark-green, glossy foliage on strong stems
- *Euonymus japonicus* 'Silver Knight'—shrub to 15', green leaves with cream edges, good floret shape on strong stems
- *Pelargonium graveolens* 'Old Fashioned Rose' (rose geranium)—gray-green, strongly indented leaves, rose scent
- Tricolored *Pelargonium* 'Mrs. H. Cox' and

‘Contrast’—leaves are irregularly marked with shades of green surrounded by brownish red and bright red with a yellow border.

Large leaves

- *Aspidistra* (cast-iron plant)—shiny, corn-like, dark-green or variegated leaves approximately 12-24" long, up to 6" wide, shade, spreading, slow growing (C)
- *Fatsia japonica* (Japanese aralia)—shade plant with large, glossy, green-lobed leaves 6-16", can be trimmed for arranging (C)
- *Ligularia tussilaginea* [*Farfugium japonicum*] (leopard plant)—fancy leaf forms include ‘Aureomaculatum’ with yellow spots and ‘Argenteum’ with gray-green and white markings. Some leaves get very large but can be cut at any size or trimmed (C)



Ligularia tussilaginea [*Farfugium japonicum*] leopard plant

Pointed leaves

- *Equisetum hyemale* (common horsetail)—perennial creeping root to 3', best in containers (C)
- *Moraea iridioides* [*Dietes iridioides*] (white African iris, fortnight lily)—long, strap-like leaves to 3', flowers short lived
- *Moraea bicolor* [*Dietes bicolor*] (fortnight lily)—shorter and narrower leaves than *M. iridioides* (above), yellow flowers are short lived
- *Phormium tenax* (New Zealand flax)—a variety of colors and heights 3-15' tall; stiff, sword-like leaves in wine red, bronze purple, gray green, or variegated; ‘Variegatum’ has leaves striped green and yellow; ‘Maori’ series blades are in sunset colors
- *Sansevieria trifasciata*, *laurentii*, and *zeylanica* (snake plant, mother-in-law’s tongue)—sword-like leaves to 42" tall, olive to dark green with whitish markings or stripes, tolerates low light (C)

Ferns

- *Asparagus densiflorus* ‘sprengeri’ (Sprenger asparagus, asparagus fern)—arching or draping (C)

- *Asparagus macowanii* [*retrofactus*] (Ming fern)—dark-green, needle-like leaves on strong branches (C)
- *Rumohra adiantiformis* (leatherleaf fern)—dark-green, triangular leaves to 12" (C)
- *Nephrolepis exaltata* (sword fern)—yellow green to medium green, 12-60"



Phormium tenax, New Zealand flax

Succulents in rosette form

- *Aeonium arboreum* ‘Schwarzkopf’, ‘Blackie’, or ‘Kiwi’—glossy, dark-purple foliage rosettes on fleshy stems; the brighter the light, the darker the color (C)
- *Echeveria* ‘Violet Queen’—lovely rosettes of lavender-green leaves (C)
- *Graptopetalum paraguayense* (ghost plant) fleshy rosettes of lavender to gray-green leaves (C)
- *Kalanchoe beharenses*—large, triangular leaves like elephant ears covered with thick, grayish felt (C)
- *Sedum nussbaumerinum* 8-12" high with pointed yellowish-green or copper-colored rosettes (C)

Before planting any shrubs, trees, bulbs, or flowers, consider the plant’s need. Is it suitable for your microclimate? Will it do best in shade, sun, or filtered light? What type of soil does it need? Do not forget to find out how big the plant will get.

Flower arrangements from your garden need not be full of flowers. With an assortment of foliage and a few flowers or succulent rosettes, you can make an arrangement. First begin to read flower arranging books, gather tools and accessories and some containers to hold water. You may want to take some lessons or study on your own. You may very well find a satisfying and creative outlet. □

Carvill Veech is a member of the Crown Garden Club of Coronado, president of the Flower Arrangers Guild of SDFA and a UCCE Master Gardener.

CHOCOLATE FLOWERS: THE WAY TO A GARDENER'S HEART[®]

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

DELICIOUS.

According to *Webster's II New Riverside Dictionary*, "delicious" means "Highly pleasing to the senses, esp. of taste . . ." However, what does the word "delicious" mean to you?

To me it means: CHOCOLATE.

However, there can be danger in the deification and excessive consumption of chocolate. Indeed, too much attention to chocolate may cause a very weighty problem. What to do? How to satisfy that very natural craving for what some of us consider to be the food of the gods?

Let's review the first meaning of "delicious": "Highly pleasing to the senses . . ." Now how can we sensibly incorporate the sensational essence of chocolateness into our lives?

Well, why not introduce chocolate into our gardens?

No, this does not mean hiding chocolate bunnies among the petunias or tying chocolate oranges to the branches of our fruit trees to provide us with sustenance as we go about our green thumb duties. Instead, we can establish a chocolate ambience in the landscape by the following methods: (1) Including plants that smell like chocolate (2) Installing plants whose blossoms or leaves are the color of chocolate (3) Growing plants whose fruits taste like chocolate (4) Using a mulch made of cocoa shells.

The following is a list of chocolate possibilities.



Mentha × piperita for chocolate mint

PLANTS THAT SMELL LIKE CHOCOLATE

(*Berlandiera lyrata*) chocolate daisy - Perennial whose daisylike flowers have yellow rays and a maroon center. The flowers and gray-green foliage have a pleasant chocolate aroma. Needs full sun, well-drained soil.

(*Mentha × piperita*) chocolate mint - Perennial, hardy, spreading, with small edible dark green leaves. Spreads quickly and aggressively, so it's best to grow it in a container. As you pass by, you can easily take a whiff of the exceedingly scrumptious candy scent and even nibble on a leaf.

(*Pelargonium tomentosum* 'Chocolate Mint') scented geranium - Ornamental geranium with a bit of dark chocolate color in the middle of each curly, fuzzy, green leaf. With the use of some imagination, leaves smell like chocolate. Needs full or part sun.

(*Centaurea moschata*) sweet sultan - Annual, two feet in height. Thistle-like flower heads in shades of lilac, rose; sometimes white or yellow. Use as cut flower. Aroma reminiscent of chocolate.

(*Oncidium* 'Sherry Baby') orchid - This orchid has the best chocolate scent of all. When it blooms in a spray of dark chocolate rust-colored flowers, the intense scent will impel you to rush to the nearest ice cream parlor to order a large dish of vanilla ice cream with hot chocolate fudge sauce. Needs bright light or filtered sun in a sheltered location, preferably near your nose.

PLANTS WHOSE BLOSSOMS OR LEAVES ARE CHOCOLATE-COLORED

There is a slight expository problem here, since chocolate, as we all know, comes in many glorious hues and shades of brown. How can I accurately describe the *exact color* of a particular blossom? For example, there is a lusciously deep dark rich brown that is the color of a bar of Godiva's[®] Belgian dark chocolate. Then there is the lovely medium brown shade of a See's[®] milk chocolate bar. And last, there is the wonderful subtle pale brown of Häagen-Dazs[®] chocolate ice cream.

Determined to "get it right at all costs," and selflessly casting aside other duties, I journeyed to the local shopping center, where I procured all I needed to help me accurately describe the various shades of brown: one large Belgian dark chocolate bar, one large milk chocolate bar, and one pint of chocolate ice cream.



Oncidium

Here, then, is a partial list of plants with chocolate-colored parts:

(*Cosmos atrosanguineus*) chocolate cosmos - Wow! In addition to having a delicate chocolate aroma, the flower color of this plant is that of Belgian dark chocolate. Since I grow chocolate cosmos in my garden, it was possible actually to hold my dark chocolate bar next to the blooming plant in order to compare the colors. Since the bar was a bit heavy to position next to the flower, it was necessary for me to break a portion off and dispose of it in the nearest oral cavity. Chocolate cosmos is good in borders, pots and for cutting. It likes sun and regular water. Not as large as other cosmos varieties, what it lacks in flower size it makes up for in chocolateness.

(*Hemerocallis* 'Mama's Hot Chocolate') daylily - Needs full sun or light shade. Flowers are small despite height of plant; multiplies fairly quickly.

(*Phormium* 'Chocolate') flax - Upright growing to four feet, the leaves are a medium chocolate color. A new cultivar from South Africa.

(*Rudbeckia* 'Chocolate Drop') rudbeckia - Impressively bulging cones the color of Belgian dark chocolate surrounded by smallish petals. Rudbeckias are generally easy to grow, and attract butterflies. The plant was striking when I saw it in a local nursery, but I made a big mistake—I didn't buy it then, and of course when I went back later it was gone. Darn!

(*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) flattop buckwheat - When they go to seed, many plants are charmless; however, buckwheat is loaded with charm. The color of the flowerheads is a gorgeous milk chocolate with a touch of rust. Flattop buckwheat is a native and needs no summer water once established. It is a good erosion control

plant. Butterflies and beneficial insects enjoy the nectar of the white flowers and then birds eat the seeds later.

(*Fritillaria biflora*) chocolate lily - This is a petite native fritillary with wonderful nodding bell-shaped satiny dark chocolate flowers. According to Nancy Dale, chocolate lily "... has been called the Cleopatra of the fritillaries." And like Cleopatra, this lily is quite headstrong and independent. It may bloom in the wild from February to April, if it feels like it. It grows on clay slopes, often under shrubs. In the garden, it might decide to bloom if you are willing to give it extra special treatment (not too much water, not too little) and then wait four to five years for a mature bulb.

(*Gladiolus* 'Smoky') gladiolus - A standard, one-spike bloomer the color of chocolate ice cream, with an orange throat.

Several members of the rose (*Rosa spp.*) family:

Miniature rose 'Incognito' is a diminutive rose that actually goes through stages of color, the base being chocolate with hits of yellow, pink, and purple. The less sunlight this rose has, the more the chocolate color will persist.

'Kaleidoscope' is a floribunda rose with the same attributes as 'Incognito'.

'White Chocolate', which is a luscious creamy white mini-rose, should be introduced in nurseries soon.

Miriam Yoder of the East County Rose Society confided: "A lot of our members are really chocoholics," and suggested that perhaps the inclusion of chocolate in their diets inspires rosarians to bestow upon their plantings extra amounts of tender loving care, resulting in blue-ribbon roses.

PLANTS WHOSE FRUITS TASTE LIKE CHOCOLATE

You can, apparently, have your chocolate and eat it too.

According to a wonderfully chatty gentleman named Richard who works for Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway, there are a few plants that will titillate chocolate-lovers' taste buds:

(*Pouteria sapota*) chocolate pudding tree - Fruits taste like chocolate pudding. Takes full sun and fertilizer. Occasional deep watering is best since roots can be greedy. Originated in the tropics.

(*Ceratonia siliqua*) carob tree - Female trees produce foot-long pods, which, when ground, can be used as a substitute for chocolate. Popular with "healthfoodies." Needs full sun, occasional deep watering. This evergreen can be a large hedge or trained as a small tree.

(continued on page 24)

NANDINA DOMESTICA

BY BETTY NEWTON

NANDINA DOMESTICA, HEAVENLY BAMBOO, is a shrub much used in Southern California landscapes (and where weather does not drop below 11 degrees). Native to India and East Asia, nandinas are usually attractive plants with strong, upright canes sometimes to 8 feet. They have up to 2-inch, light-green leaflets on sometimes 10-inch, lacy leaves. The leaves turn light red, then darker in the fall. If a nandina is chosen, grown and pruned right, it can be a wonderful addition, bringing a light, lifting feeling to the garden.

N. domestica is called "heavenly bamboo," but its stolons do not run far. Seldom is the plant over 3 feet wide even after 25 years. However, it becomes so dense that it needs to be *thinned out* to the base of the plant to expose the canes and emphasize its verticality.

About two of ten nandinas are routinely neglected. Some homeowners seem to think the sprinkler system, however programmed, takes care of the yard. In such a situation, nandinas may put up with suffocating drainage (where water stands after a rain) and grows in a stunted fashion. Nandinas need occasional deep watering and fertilizing to allow them to put out refreshing new growth.

Planted under a window, *N. domestica* can get too tall. Often the shorter form, *N. domestica* 'Compacta', which only grows to 4 or 5 feet, is the better choice. All the nandinas grow in sun or light shade, in clay or coarser soils.

Aesthetically, a landscaped area seems to call for three to five. That ties the scene together. Sometimes the plants suffer from iron chlorosis, showing extreme yellowing, and everyone ignores it. This year they have had powdery mildew—this is new to me.

OTHER CULTIVARS

You have seen variations of this plant—shorter ones. You see them in gas station plantings and at new grocery stores. They all have flowers and berries. I spoke with Gabrielle Rubenstein at Monrovia Wholesale Nursery in Azusa to understand these better. We came up with nine shorter variations.

These first appeared as natural genetic mutations. To keep their unique characteristics they have since been cloned, either grown by cuttings or by tissue culture. (You remember that is the process in which a bit of meristem cells from the tip of the plant is settled onto and allowed to multiply in a sterile petri dish or flask with nutritious agar-agar until the parts are large enough to transplant.)

Even with the various looks, these remain *Nandina domestica*. 'Gulfstream' and 'Moon Bay' (two "products" of Hines Wholesale Nursery, Santa Ana) grow to about 3 feet and are surprisingly red. Monrovia's 'Wood's Dwarf' and 'Harbour Dwarf' both grow slowly to about 18 inches and can be used as ground cover. The first plant has a red-bronze quality even in its new growth and the second is particularly

dense with smaller leaflets tinged pink to bronze in spring and darker red in winter. 'Fire Power' makes 30-inch neat mounds. 'Plum Passion' nandina grows as tall as 5 feet. It has very narrow foliage, almost grassy, that turns purple plum to black.

Observe the many different cultivars of nandinas. Help your friends learn to deep water occasionally, feed for new growth, and, very important, *thin out the heavenly bamboos* not grown as ground cover or a pattern plant. □

Betty Newton, a long-time adult education teacher, is presenting her drought-resistant gardening class, January-February 2002.

Illustration copyrighted by Cherie Ann Gossett.



LEAVES

NANDINA DOMESTICA

BERRIES

PROPAGATION OF SOME EASY NATIVES

BY JEANINE DE HART

ISLAND BUSH-SNAPDRAGON (*GALVEZIA SPECIOSA*) is an easy native to propagate and an appealing shrub that will attract the hummingbirds. Make your cuts, dip into the rooting hormone and stick into mix. You will get almost 100% to root. There is another *Galvezia* that is a little more difficult. This is Baja snapdragon (*G. juncea*) from northern Baja California. It is extremely drought tolerant and will do better rooted in a mixture with more perlite, in fact you might try rooting the cuttings in pure perlite. This plant has few leaves, but the same tubular reddish flowers that the hummingbirds love. It is great for a dry area in the landscape. [More information on rooting is in November-December 2001 issue article on propagating *Salvia*.]

Another plant that is easy to propagate is Mexican bush lobelia (*Lobelia laxiflora*) from northern Baja. Do the cuttings the same as for the *Galvezia*. It is a large shrub and has the flowers that the hummingbirds love. It will get about three feet tall and spread to about six feet.

There is another worthwhile plant that is easily propagated from divisions rather than cuttings. It is the common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). This plant can be used as a native ground cover. You can cut it down with a Weedeater to keep it low and supple. Just take a plant (yes, you will have to buy the first one), pull it apart, and plant all the pieces! They will all grow. This method probably works for many of the plants that spread from underground parts.

There are a lot of hybrid artemisias on the market. Some are very easy to propagate and some are not. Our California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) is easy to propagate with the method used for *Galvezia*, but not very useful in the landscaped yard. *A. arborescens* 'Powis Castle' is both easy and useful, making a mound about 3' by 3'. It is not a native, but comes from a parent that originates near the Mediterranean Sea. It is found at most of the native plant nurseries so I have included it here. Another easy to propagate *Artemisia* and this one a true native, is sandhill sage (*Artemisia pycnocephala*). It is very silver in color but lacks scent so is useful along the coastal strip and in areas where you do not want the bees associated with the more aromatic plants. There is a cultivar of this one called *A. pycnocephala* 'David's Choice'. It is also easily propagated. It is greener than the species and is quite short lived so not as much found at nurseries. *A.*

'Montara' is another cultivar that is low and mounding. It is equally as easy to propagate.



Achillea millefolium

California fuchsia (*Epilobium* or *Zauschneria* species) are easy to propagate and will spread a lot, again having the reddish-orange tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds. The beauty of this plant is that it blooms through the fall when most other plants are finished.

The last one that I shall mention on plants of easy propagation is beloperone or chuperosa (*Justicia californica*). This plant is good for the hummingbirds, blooms in the fall, and will take periodic deep watering to be its best. It also likes growing in part shade as its native habitat is near washes in the desert associated with willows and other large plants that give it shade. □

Jeanine De Hart, at age fifty, graduated from SDSU with a degree in botany in order to pursue a career in the native plants of California.



Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF*

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Mort Brigadier

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SIMPLY sit back and enjoy our African violets.

TO SEPARATE and repot only if daughter plants are pushing the mother plant up and out of the pot.

TO RETURN those plants that you may have moved during the holidays.

TO EXPERIMENT by wick-watering some plants, bottom-watering others, and top-watering a third group.

TO USE a humidifier for your plants if you heat your home and awaken with a dry throat. It will help maintain suitable moisture.

BEGONIAS

American Begonia Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH the watering program; slower growth requires less water. Do not allow to dry out or to become too wet.

TO KEEP plants clean; remove dead leaves and old foliage.

TO START cutting back cane-type and shrub-like types.

TO ADD more planting mix as needed to keep roots covered.

TO SPRAY for mildew.

TO CONTROL slugs, snails, mealybugs, and loopers.

TO START, in February, tuberous types for summer blooms.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO COLLECT native stock in the California region, where permitted. Plant the native trees in a larger

container, not a bonsai pot.

TO GRAFT conifers, deciduous, and evergreen trees.

TO USE lime-sulfur spray on deciduous trees.

TO REDUCE watering if a rainy period.

TO PRUNE fruit-bearing bonsai.

TO WATCH for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.

TO REMEMBER NOT to fertilize your trees. Allow plants to rest.

TO START in February to repot and transplant some varieties if weather is favorable.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP plants from damage by possible hail. Give them overhead protection such as placing them under trees, shade cloth, or any other suitable material.

TO PROTECT plants from freezing temperatures; keep at least 2 inches above ground and cover with newspapers, sheets, etc. or bring them indoors.

TO BE careful when having plants indoors not to place them in front of a heating vent or in a drafty area.

TO EMPTY water from outdoor plants when it has rained consistently for two or three days. The weight of too much water can cause the leaves to spread apart, affecting the compact form.

TO CUT the frequency of watering during the cooler weather.

TO NOT fertilize until weather begins to warm.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMEMBER to rest winter-dormant plants and keep the winter growers happy. Be careful with water and fertilizer as it gets cold—water in the early part of a sunny day so water will evaporate and fungi will not start easily. If it looks like rain, hold off on the water.

TO PROTECT outside plants from excessive rain if possible. If frost is likely, a little protection with a piece of paper or plastic can save a plant. Many tropical succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. Remember to remove cover when conditions become more favorable.

TO WATCH new cuttings—they may not root quickly. If you can supply bottom heat you should not have much of a problem.

TO KEEP an eye on the seedlings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings—use some form of snail and slug control if needed.

TO CLEAN up old pots and pick up the last of the old leaves and other debris. You do not want to encourage mice and roof rats. Rodents can make a mess of your prize plants.

TO NOTE those plants you want to propagate the next growing season. Find out how to make new starts. Plan your spring display now.

CAMELIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED iron and gypsum to maintain healthy, green plants, and 0-10-10 or a 2-10-10 fertilizer to encourage better blooms and root development.

TO CONTINUE to disbud certain varieties for better blooms.

TO OBTAIN rootstock for grafting.

TO TRANSPLANT camellias.

TO PRUNE selectively so that blooms will have room to open.

TO BUY plants in bloom. Some plants that do well in San Diego are: **Red:** 'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Kraemer's Supreme', 'Rudolph'; **Pink:** 'Tiffany', 'Elsie Jury', 'Al Gunn', 'Debutante', 'Valentine Day'; **White:** 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Scentuous' (fragrant); **Variegated:** 'Emma Gaeta Var', 'Adolphe Audusson Special', 'Dixie Knight Supreme', 'Rudolph Var'; **Multi-colored:** 'Margaret Davis'.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DIG any tubers left in the ground. By early January the tops should be completely withered. Cut tops just above the ground.

TO STORE tubers without dividing. Store in vermiculite or sand, leaving on the soil that clings to them. Keep in a cool place.

TO INSPECT those tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling. If too dry, add a little moisture.

TO START in February to prepare the planting bed. Turn the soil, add humus, and fumigate. Dig in humus and add equal parts of superphosphate and sulfate of potash. Turn over well. Add fertilizer two or three weeks before planting.

TO SPROUT some selected roots in February—these make good cuttings. Bottom heat may be applied to encourage sprouting.

EPIPHYLLUMS

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO TAKE advantage of beneficial rains. Collect the rainwater for future use. Store in opaque containers to

prevent infestation of mosquito larvae and buildup of algae.

TO PROTECT plants from unexpected frost and strong wintery winds.

TO BAIT for snails and slugs.

TO SPRAY insecticides only if necessary. Do not use oil-base types. Use Orthene™, malathion, and Cygon™ available locally. Read and follow directions carefully.

TO PRUNE out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.

TO FEED mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring. Use liquid or slow-release granules. Another application may be necessary in about thirty days.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY for aphids, especially maidenhair.

TO WATER gently, but do not soak. On cool nights soaking keeps their feet too cold. Do not rely on rain to find your hidden and covered plants—they may remain dry.

TO TRIM off old fronds in frost free areas.

TO FERTILIZE *Platyceriums* (stag horns) with bone meal, hoof & horn, or high nitrogen liquid.

TO REMOVE and remount *Platycerium* pups.

TO PLANT spores.

TO CHECK for spider mites on the underside of fronds. Mites are very small and may not be seen. Fronds will be silvery on top and start to turn brown. Spray with malathion or miticide.

TO REPOT, rebasket, and divide ferns in frost free areas.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FINISH pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.

TO PRUNE evergreens just before or when new growth begins.

TO SPRAY dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.

TO SPRAY dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) before buds begin to open to control leaf curl.

TO PLANT dormant bare-root trees and vines.

TO PAINT the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury.

TO PROVIDE frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

FUCHSIAS

San Diego Fuchsia Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE fuchsias severely if not done in the fall.

TO CLEAN up all leaves and other trash in baskets, pots, and around ground plants.

TO SPRAY remaining foliage and ground to eradicate pests that may winter over.

TO KEEP plants moist but not wet.

TO FEED with a good fertilizer—fish (10-5-5) or a slow release type. These can be used for your year-round feeding.

TO USE insecticides or fungicides if there is a problem.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Relocate potted plants if there is prolonged rain.

TO CONTINUE watering with a complete fertilizer. If soilless mix is used, a fertilizer with micronutrients is needed. Use at less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

TO CONTINUE a pest control and disease prevention program. Use all products according to the manufacturers' instructions.

TO PRUNE any plants that have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scented, and similar types. Lanky plants, which were previously pruned, can be cut back to produce compact plants. Tip pinch plants that were pruned in the fall.

TO MAKE cuttings from the prunings. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather. Placing them in a warm location will produce roots more rapidly.

TO PROTECT plants from freezing. Temporary coverings may be used.

TO CONTINUE to rotate plants to keep them well-shaped.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO BREATHE in deeply the fragrance of your herb garden, during or after a winter rain.

TO PLANT seeds of winter-flowering herbs — calendula, borage, nasturtium.

TO PRUNE back winter deciduous shrubs and trees — ginkgo, vitex, lemon verbena.

TO WEED around and give space to any struggling

herbs.

TO AMEND the soil throughout the garden.

TO BREW fresh tea with your backyard herbs — mints, dandelion, thyme, sage.

TO APPRECIATE and use our native herbs — black sage, white sage, sagebrush, yerba santa.

TO BAKE a fresh loaf of rosemary-flavored bread.

IRIS

San Diego-Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP old brown fans off the tall bearded. Good ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control.

TO MAKE last plantings of bulbous irises for spring bloom.

TO WATCH watering, if rains are light. Rhizomes should not be allowed to dry out.

TO START a regular spraying program with copper oil to help control rust.

TO START in February to feed all irises with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer. Follow directions carefully and do not over fertilize.

NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FINISH planting any natives not yet in the ground. The new native plant nursery in Escondido would be a good place to check availability for plants you have not yet purchased. It is Las Pilitas and is located at Old Highway 395 and Nelson Way. Valerie is the manager and very helpful. They have a good web site at laspilitas.com.

TO CHECK for *ceanothus* stem gall moth larvae (*Periploca ceanothiella*) on *Ceanothus*. There will be a thickening near the bud if there is an infestation. Since this infestation is within the plant, either cut off the thickened portions or use a systemic.

TO WEED around the natives very well as early rains will cause rapid growth. Remember weeds make better use of resources than desirable plants do!

TO CONTINUE to supplement the winter rains with deep, infrequent watering. The natives will continue to push roots until later spring when the tops begin to grow.

TO PLAN trips to see native plantings in April and May. If our rains have been good, the desert will be blooming by late March or early April. The poppy reserve at Lancaster is well worth the trip. The address of the reserve is: 15101 W. Lancaster Rd., Lancaster. The phone number is (661) 942-0662.

TO FEED the natives you planted last year. Feed at about ½ of the recommended dose. Never feed newly

planted natives. You will stimulate top growth that newly planted natives do not have enough roots to support.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK the moisture in pots of outdoor-growing orchids including cymbidiums under cover. Protect them from cold rains and possible hail damage.

TO CONTINUE staking and grooming cymbidium flower spikes.

TO USE low-nitrogen fertilizer on cymbidiums. Do not feed if overcast.

TO KEEP nobile-type dendrobiums on the dry side. Watch for swelling of nodes for flower production, then move them to where it is warmer.

TO REMEMBER phals should be spiking and if moving the plant, to place it in the same general direction and area so that the flowers will bloom uniformly.

TO WATER early in the morning so crowns will be dry by nightfall.

TO WATCH closely for slugs and snails. These pests are coming out of hibernation and proliferating after the rains. Granules of 7.5% metaldehyde are an excellent bait and do not attract children or pets and do not leave a mess.

TO BE AWARE in outlying areas of any sudden temperature drops.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAINTAIN a complete calendar of procedures you follow in preparing/maintaining/feeding your roses. The work you do now is the basis of your success or failure in the rose garden.

TO STRIP any foliage remaining on your bushes and rake and clean up the beds. If you have given your bushes dormant spray in late December, you will be wise to repeat it, weather permitting. This will do a lot to prevent overwintering spores of mildew and rust. Roses grown away from other plants are easier to maintain as they require a regular routine of feeding, watering and cleanliness. Many problems can be controlled by hosing them off early in the morning.

TO PLANT new bushes in holes you prepared earlier. If planting a new rose as a replacement, you will be well advised to supplement the planting mix with soil taken from another area of the garden, along with superphosphate at the bottom of the hole. If the weather is hot and dry, mound soil or mulch up around the canes and keep damp with frequent

sprinkling.

TO PRUNE established hybrid teas, mid-January through Valentine's Day. Attend the demonstrations of your local garden clubs held in municipal rose gardens to observe pruning practices and share information with participating members.

TO FEED new plants with liquid fertilizer when bushes have a full set of leaves. These new bushes may be the first to bloom and after verifying you have the correct plant, break off the bloom leaving the new growth intact.

TO APPLY rose food to established bushes in early February. A cup of alfalfa meal or pellets worked into the drip basin will help get your bushes off to a good start. Frequent small feedings will produce continuous blooms and beautiful roses throughout the year.

TO MAINTAIN moisture level at all times by filling your water basins at least twice a week.

TO WATCH for the first signs of aphids on the new growth and knock them off with a strong stream of water from the hose. They are lazy and will take a few days to climb back up.

TO CONTROL mildew by washing off foliage in the early morning or spray weekly with a fungicide.

TO FINGER PRUNE when multiple buds break on the canes, leaving only the strongest to promote strong growth.

TO MAINTAIN a clear area around your bushes to discourage rust fungus, which will show up on the undersides of the leaves when present. Keep infected leaves picked off and dispose of in closed containers.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRUNE ROSES!

If you missed the presentations provided at various sites where volunteers demonstrate recommended pruning practices, you may wish to visit after the event to observe the result.

Roses grown here in Southern California achieve bushes of a size that is unusual and unknown to many new residents from other areas where winter weather destroys many bushes and replacement yearly is required. Hard to imagine, when here many rosarians have grown the same bushes for twenty-five to thirty years.

Pruning will help keep the plant under control. Many roses will become extremely large if allowed unlimited growth. Pruning will renew the growth and result in abundant bloom. The best growth comes from basal growth—that new cane that came directly from the graft union. Because our roses seldom go naturally dormant here, pruning and defoliation provide a shock to spur the process and give the plant the natural rest it needs.

The usual rule of thumb is to remove 1/3 to 1/2 of the growth of an established bush. If you have a bush that is only one year old and did not grow a lot, you may want

to prune it only lightly or even not at all.

Suckers, growth from below the bud union, must be removed clean to the bud union. This is probably the rule most ignored by new rosarians. This will produce blooms unlike the ones you want and if left on the bush will frequently take over—resulting in bushes that once produced pink or yellow flowers producing red blooms.

Lack of rainfall during the past year should encourage you to deep water your bushes (beds) several times during this period of rest to cleanse the beds of salt build-up that occurs during the growing period. Such soil amendments as superphosphate, iron, epsom salts, and gypsum may be added at this time. Wait a few weeks until new growth is actually started before adding rose foods.

I avoid products that profess to curtail pests along with giving nutrients to the bush. Ammonium sulfate is great—for keeping your lawns green!

Remember—there is no RIGHT way to grow roses! If what you are doing is working for you—do not change!

VEGETABLES

**Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME**

TO CONTINUE planting cool-season vegetables that are not likely to be damaged by frost. Cool-season vegetables include broccoli, brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radish, rutabaga, and turnip.

TO USE floating row cover fabric on seeded and transplanted crops to accelerate their growth.

TO PLANT dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus, and rhubarb.

TO PLANT seeds of medium-day-length onions such as 'White Sweet Spanish', 'Stockton Yellow Globe', and 'Italian Red' (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.

TO ORDER seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in the spring.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

**from UC Cooperative Extension Publications
NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS**

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce — Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum amabile*), cineraria, fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), garden stock (*Matthiola incana*), pansy, pink sand verbenia, pot marigold (*Calendula*), snapdragon, and viola.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beet, carrot, chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion (green and dry), parsnip, spinach, and turnip — baby blue eyes, candytuft, China asters, Chinese forget-me-not, coleus,

delphinium, dianthus, forget-me-not, hollyhock, impatiens, lobelia, petunia, poppies, scabiosa, sweet alyssum, and Virginia stock (*Malcolmia maritima*).

CROWN-OF-THORNS

BY BARBARA S. JONES



CROWN-OF-THORNS (*Euphorbia milii*) is a popular house and pot plant in Southern California because of its unique appearance. It is a member of the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae) that has over 2,000 species. Euphorbias are native to most of the world but are more abundant in the tropics and sub-tropics. Their botanical classification is based primarily on floral structure. The species is so varied in appearance and form, it is often difficult to realize that they are the same family. (The poinsettia is in the family.) Many members of the family have milky sap that is irritating to contact.

Crown-of-thorns has dark-green, inch-long leaves at the end of gray stems that are covered with ¼-inch long spines. The older variety has brilliant red blooms, bracts surrounding the true flowers (cyathia). Today there are new varieties and hybrids that have yellow, orange, and pink blooms. Untrimmed it grows as a scrambling or climbing shrub. In its native Madagascar it is used for fencing because it forms an impenetrable barrier. In San Diego it is usually used as a pot plant and can be grown either indoor or out. If planted in the open ground, it does best if trained on a frame in a sheltered location. If planted in a pot and grown outdoors, it forms a graceful semi-hanging plant. It does well in full sun but can tolerate afternoon shade. If used as a house plant, it should be placed in a well lighted location. The soil should be well drained. The plant will bloom throughout the year if the soil is kept moist and it is warm. □

Barbara S. Jones has been gardening in San Diego for over sixty years and writing for California Garden for thirty-one years.

Our illustration of crown-of-thorns is by Alison Walsh. See cover information on page 3.

GROWING PEAS ON THE COAST

BY ARTHUR DAWSON

PEAS REQUIRE MORE EFFORT from the home gardener than most vegetables, but it is labor well repaid. "Not even the king eats food as good as this," my mother would tell me when we grew them in our victory garden during the war. The supermarkets do not even sell fresh peas, having trained consumers to buy them frozen and, it must be admitted, frozen peas are much superior to fresh ones that have sat around for a few days.

My comments here apply to the traditional "garden pea." The *mange-tout* types (snow pea and sugar snap) make a pleasant addition to a stir-fry and are somewhat easier to grow, but they cannot compare with the old-fashioned English pea. None of the modern varieties can match the taste of the telephone or Alderman pea, but it takes real dedication to grow them. They require support to at least six and preferably eight feet high, and they are so susceptible to mildew that the pods are often covered with it by the time they are ready to harvest. The excellent-tasting new variety, 'Mr. Big', is vigorous, long bearing, and disease resistant. Since it appeared on the scene, I have given up growing other varieties.

I make three or four plantings of peas per year, each of two seven-foot rows. The first, started in late August, will produce in December. Subsequent plantings can be made in late September, November and **January** to supply fresh peas through the spring until April. **They can be planted as late as March for a June harvest**, but by that time I need the space for summer vegetables.

Peas can be planted directly in the ground but germinate better, especially in cold weather, if the seeds are laid out on a metal tray between two layers of moist paper towels covered with a layer of Saran Wrap. They should be set in a warm place, such as a kitchen window, and checked daily until white roots grow out about half an inch. They can then be planted in straight vermiculite sprinkled in a two-trough in the soil.

The plants should be supported on a fence about four feet high. You can make it with the same welded wire mesh that you use for tomato cages. The young plants need some help to guide their tendrils to the wire. Otherwise, they are inclined to sprawl on the ground.

I do not usually fertilize peas. The experts advise fertilizing the soil two weeks before planting and then waiting until the flowers appear. This is said to increase the yield, but we get more peas than we can use anyway.

Sugar snap and snow peas can be grown in the same

way as garden peas. A few plants supply as much as we can use, and they can be supported conveniently on a tomato cage.

When we first planted peas around thirty years ago we were plagued with birds, mostly sparrows and house finches, uprooting the seedlings and nibbling the tips from the leaves of even the mature plants. It is one of those garden mysteries that the birds are still around, but now they ignore the peas. Perhaps they find the modern varieties less palatable.



In the Stokes catalog there is some information I have seen no other place. They say that peas are open pollinated, not hybrids, and that off-type plants will appear, especially on rolling ground or with uneven growing conditions. Perhaps this accounts for those occasional deformed plants with stunted pods. If you succeed in producing too many peas to serve shelled, then they are just as wonderful in fresh pea soup, another forgotten delicacy that our grandparents enjoyed when they lived on the farm. I have nothing against soup made from dried peas. In fact, there are few things better than Quebec's famous habitant split-pea soup. However, if you have experienced only canned green pea soup, then you have no idea of taste of the real thing. □

Arthur Dawson is a retired physician with thirty years of growing experience.

Reprinted, with permission, from the October 2001 "The Spindrift," the newsletter of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla [California].

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

QUESTION: What can we do about Argentine ants?

ANSWER: Not much, unless you can completely remove the scent trail from your house.

Although they prefer to picnic outdoors, they enter dwellings in cooler weather looking for food. In hot weather they are looking for both food and water. They follow a pre-marked pheromone scent trail laid down by the scout ants. This must be removed before you can effect an indoor control.

Scouts appear as if by magic on stove tops, on kitchen tables, on bed pillows, or wherever they are attracted to food scraps, a dead insect, spider or fly, and even to feces or sweat. **Some control** can be achieved by killing the scouts. The **best control** is to remove the scent trails (Pine Sol, Windex, peppermint, rubbing alcohol, etc.) and by keeping the house scrupulously clean. The only **positive control** is to find the nests.

Call the Master Gardener Hotline at 858-694-2860 for a copy of the Pest Note 7441 on Ants. Do not use a toxic aerosol spray can indoors. The stuff will literally kill you.

QUESTION: Why do I only get a few avocados? I used to get dozens.

ANSWER: Blame it on the varroa mite, an insect that, in the last two years, may have killed off as many as 90% of the feral (wild) bees according to apiculturists at UC Davis. This mite is a bloodsucking parasite that gets into the brood cells where it destroys the next generation and can spread very quickly within a hive. I have read that the African bee seems more resistant to the varroa mite because of its aggressive grooming habit.

It did not readily occur to me, but last year I too had fewer and smaller avocados. I told myself that it was the "off year" for avocados. Because commercial growers rely on inoculated bee colonies, trucked into the orchards, commercial operations have not been affected ... as of yet. You may want to plant herbs or other plants that attract wild bees such as red apple, sage, broom, willows, daises, cosmos, or zinnias. It is best to have a variety of plants blooming all season. If you see a honey bee, chances are that there is a beekeeper within a mile of your home. Please, do not spray the bee. If you want to encourage bees, do not spray the beekeeper.

The following plants are alleged to attract bees: basil, bee balm, borage, catmint, chives, clover, comfrey, crocus, dandelion, hollyhock, horehound, hyssop, ivy, lavender, lemon balm, mallow, marjoram,

mint, mustard, lungwort, rosemary, sage, savory, thyme.

QUESTION: Why did my tomatoes have tough skins last year?

ANSWER: They may have been left to ripen on the vine too long. For a good balance of acidity and sugar, let your tomatoes ripen off the vine for a few days before cooking, canning or slicing.

QUESTION: Is it true that I can download free UC publications from the internet?

ANSWER: Yes. The internet is a good source of information from UC Davis. To download a publication on Home Gardening or Pest Control, search the web for: anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu click on: University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publications. The blue side of the screen will offer several choices. Click on "free publications" or, click on "new additions." Enter the publication number, or scroll down to the publication you want.

To download a publication, click the "download" button. Please note that some "newer additions" available from UC Davis on the Internet may not yet be available from the UCCE Office in Clairemont Mesa

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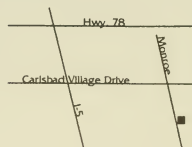
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC

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DATE: Saturday, January 26, 2002
TIME: 12 noon - 4:00 PM
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CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDEN IN PORTLAND

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

RECENTLY MY WIFE AND I had the pleasure of going to Portland, Oregon. During the visit we were treated to a tour of the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Unfortunately it was during the time of year when most of the plants had completed their blooming, but the layout and lush greenery of the Gardens made up for this.

A spring-fed lake surrounds a good deal of the garden area, which provides a pleasant contrast with water and the various plants. Also, the lake is an ideal site for many species of birds and waterfowl; including ducks, geese, coots, chickadees, and herons. Portland has had a very dry summer, and water, believe it or not, was short according to their standards. However, the natural water aquifer supplied sufficient water for all the plants and the lake without having to rely on city water supplies.



Water springing into the air from a natural aquifer

The gardens contain an outstanding collection of hybrid rhododendrons, azaleas, and other Ericaceae [heath family] plants. The trees stand tall and graceful intermixed amongst the flowering plants and ground covers. The paths that lead you through the area have been designed to give both intimate and grand vistas of gardens. The horticulturists have done a great job in putting little identification signs near the plants so that you will know what you are seeing. This is very

important to a Southern Californian who cannot identify many of the plants and trees and bushes of the Pacific Northwest.

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego. Photograph by the author.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION CRAFT and FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES

CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK

9:30AM to 2:00PM

Bring a lunch, coffee will be provided

Register with San Diego Floral Association office,
619/232-5762, Call MARIE WALSH 619/298-5182
for more information

PLEASE PREREGISTER! CLASS SIZES LIMITED, COUPON ON PAGE 5

THREE DAY FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS

Tuesdays February 5, 19, 26, 2002: Please note that on February 12 there will be a pine needle basket class, not flower arranging.

April 16, 23, 30, there will be another flower arranging series, in preparation for Art Alive.

Instructor, Award-winning flower arranger, Velma West
Bring vase, clippers, lunch, some showy blooms, filler flowers, and greenery.

FEE \$45 for series for members of SDFA

\$50 for series for nonmembers

Beginners and advanced arrangers are welcome

BASIC PINE NEEDLE CLASS:

A COILED BASKET

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Instructors: Martha Rosenberg and Kathy Walsh

Local Torrey Pine needles provided to make an elegant basket. Beginners welcome. Bring a towel and a bucket.

Fee: \$20, all supplies included.

GOURD ETCHING AND BURNING

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Instructor: Mary Jean Wydro — Learn unique ways to decorate a gourd using a dremel tool and a wood-burning tool. Some tools are available, but bring your own if available. Fee: \$30, includes one gourd.

MULCH MORE THAN JUST MULCH

For a lovely chocolate fragrance that pervades the air when you water it, try cocoa mulch. Although this mulch loses its cocoa aroma after a period of time, it has many other fine qualities. For example, it is derived from cocoa pods and is a natural fertilizer, soil conditioner, and weed suppressant. It is also very handsome. Its color is a rich medium brown; as it decomposes, it forms a whitish mold that is said eventually to disappear as it disintegrates. As with any mulch, you will eventually have to add more and then you get to smell that wonderful choco smell again. **Its texture is said to discourage slugs, snails, and most cats.** It also may deter rabbits, since my brilliant blue lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*) has been blooming for months; usually, bumptious bunnies nibble it to a nub right after it is planted.

The only drawback to cocoa mulch is that it may injure the young and/or delicate stems of some plants. For that reason, you may want to keep it several inches away from plant stalks. However, it is touching the lobelia, and the little plant doesn't seem to take offense.



Rudbeckia

CHOCOLATE CONSCIOUSNESS

Despite the plethora of scientific data regarding chocolate that have been presented here, there is always room for more study.

You might like to do your own survey of plants and their connections to chocolate.

I'm sure the results will be delicious. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens. Telephone 619-390-9399.

MORE INFORMATION ON "GARDENER AT LARGE" ARTICLES AND *NANDINA DOMESTICA*

This month's is the last of six "Gardener at Large" columns. It has focused on some commonly-seen plants as well as oddities. It has featured true-to-life drawings by Cherie Gossett, Bonita. If this is a feature you would like to see continued, perhaps you might write such an overview every two months. Volunteer. We can often find a respectable photograph.

Monrovia Nursery has a Website where about four of the *Nandina domestica* cultivars (cultivated varieties) are pictured. You can go to www.monrovia.com or just initiate a search for "monrovia nursery." And when it comes up, click on "for gardeners" and fill in the name of the plant for which you are searching. I was amused to see these listed as "bamboo"—a boo boo. But the other information was excellent. They recommended a good list of companion plants including Japanese aralia and mondo grass.

Betty Newton

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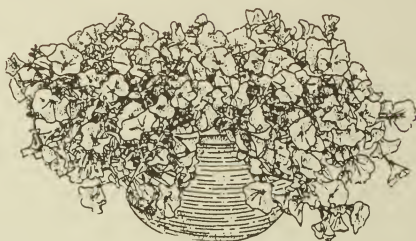
Form: 2-inch, single, multiflora

Dimensions: 4-6" tall, 3-4' wide

Foliage color: green

Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 92 days

Features: trailing ground cover habit, exceptional weather tolerance



Rudbeckia hirta 'Cherokee Sunset'

Common name: black-eyed Susan,

Flower color: blend of yellow, orange, bronze, mahogany,

Form: double or semi-double, 3-4½"

Dimensions: 24-30" tall, 12-18" wide

Foliage color: dark green

Location: sun

Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 20 weeks

Features: long lasting as cut flowers, flowers profusely first year



Vinca rosea [Catharanthus roseus] 'Jaio Scarlet Eye'

Common name: vinca

Flower color: vibrant scarlet with rose tones, white eye

Form: single, well-overlapped, round petal

Dimensions: 12" tall, 12-15" wide

Foliage color: green

Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 70 days

Features: heat and drought tolerant through growing season, long blooming season, unprecedented color



Cleome spinosa 'Sparkler Blush' F₁

Common name: spider flower

Flower color: pink, matures white

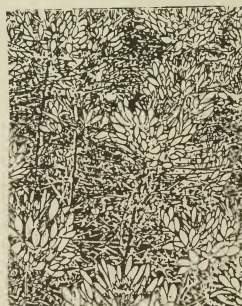
Form: bracted racemes, 4 separate petals, long prominent pistil

Dimensions: 36" tall, 36" wide

Foliage color: dark green

Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 11 weeks

Features: first F₁ cleome, first dwarf cleome



Ocimum basilicum 'Magical Michael'

Common name: sweet basil

Flower color: purple calices, white corollas

Form: bred to be uniform

Dimensions: 15" tall, 15-17" wide

Foliage color: dark green

Length of time from sowing seed to harvest: leaves: 50-60 days; flowers: 80-85 days

Features: inflorescences very compact, have beautiful purple color



Cucurbita pepo 'Sorcerer' F₁

Common name: pumpkin

Color: dark orange

Form: upright and uniform for use as jack-o'-lanterns

Dimensions: plant 20" tall, vine length 10' at most, fruit size 21" x 14", 15-22 pounds

Foliage color: green

Length of time from sowing seed to harvest: 90-100 days

Features: a semi-vine requiring less garden space, good handle, excellent uniformity



Cucurbita pepo 'Orange Smoothie' F₁

Common name: pumpkin

Color: medium-dark orange

Form: compact, bushy plants

Dimensions: plant 2½' tall, 4½' wide; fruit size 6" deep, 7" diameter, 4-7 pounds

Foliage color: green

Length of time from sowing to harvest: 90-100 days

Features: shallow ribs and smooth skin for face painting, perfect size and shape for children, handle bred to be strong for children to hold



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Save the Date

April 27, 2002

For More Information: (619) 543-9388



Book Reviews

GRAHAM STUART THOMAS' THREE GARDENS: The Personal Odyssey of a Great Plantsman and Gardener Graham Stuart Thomas

Portland, Sagapress, Distributed by Timber Press, 2001, 189 pages, 8 water color illustrations, 12 color photos, 22 b&w photos, 8 pencil drawings, 6 1/2" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$29.95

A virtual stroll down memory lane, originally published in 1983, this book recounts the life and times of a plantsman whose passion became his career, to the blessing of us all. From a small boy nurturing a throwaway azalea, reminiscences are filled with experiences and friendships related to plants. Appointed Garden Advisor to the British National Trust in 1955, he seems to have had a hand in everything to do with that country's horticultural history of the last seventy-five years.

His story is told with grace and humor, and is obviously based on the garden journals that he has kept all his life. Although full of information (and nostalgia) for commercial horticultural practices between the two World Wars, the title refers to his main focus on the gardens of his own homes: the Cambridge one of his parents, the one he later shared with his mother and the one he eventually occupied on his own. Each garden is described in detail, from what they were like when he took over to what (and why) he planted what he did. Photos, mostly of before and after the gardens were developed, are scattered throughout the text, usually in reverse order and with little reference to the pages around them. The author's own beautiful botanical drawings and water colors are also included.

Details of color and form are at the heart of Thomas' love of plants and he claims that the "beauty of flowers is the reason for writing this book." But he also shares the practical aspects of nurturing plants: the need for mundane chores and the disappointment of mysterious failures, such as his inability to grow parsley, of his progression from large to small properties, he recalls the sage comment of an old friend, "every year it (the garden) gets larger and further down," and he wonders why his favorite magenta is not as popular as flower color as orange.

Finally, as if unable to let go of his favorite subject, there are more than thirty pages of a plant guide and index, followed

by six pages of biographical notes on people he has mentioned, also indexed. His is a rich history and his generosity in sharing it seems rooted in his enthusiastic and unabashed love for plants and their flowers.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

INVASIVE PLANTS OF CALIFORNIA'S WETLANDS Editors: Carla C Bossard, John M. Randall, and Marc C. Hoshovsky

Berkeley, University of California Press, 2000, 360 pages, 146 color photos, 155 line drawings, 7" x 10", softcover, \$29.95 (hardcover, \$60)

An important book for anyone involved in the extirpation of invasive plants, whether it is in a small area or large tracts of land. Three methods of removal are indicated: choices are physical, biological, or chemical, plus the effectiveness of each method is discussed.

Each plant has an extensive section about its historical origins, probable date of its introduction into the state, and a map showing its spread across the state. There is a description of how they propagate and spread.

Even if one is not involved in exotic plant removal, the thorough biography of each plant makes this book a valuable addition to the plant lover's library. One example is *Cortaderia selloana* and *C. jubata* (both known as pampas grass) because they are some of the most difficult exotics to remove. (They are still sold in the nurseries.) Both plants came from the Argentine and they were first introduced into California about 1848 and officially listed as a noxious weed in 1996. The spread map in this case shows that they have covered San Diego County as an invasive species.

One magic bullet is made evident by reading this book; glyphosate (known as Roundup) in various strengths and frequency of application will do in most weeds. The index of references is extensive and a source of data for each taxa is also listed.

Reviewed by Don Miller

THE SHAKER GARDEN: Beauty through Utility Stephanie Donaldson

North Pomfret, Vt., Trafalgar Square Publishing, 2001, 150 pages, 150 color photos, 50 line drawings, 9 1/2" x 11", hardcover, \$29.95

Stephanie Donaldson's interest in Shaker architecture and design led her to plant her own Shaker garden. Using *The Gardener's Manual*, published in 1843, as a guide she interprets their gardening principles rather than historically recreating a Shaker garden.

The first section of the book is called Setting the Scene and covers fences, paths, containers, sheds, tools, and paints. Other sections are soil, herbs, flowers, vegetables, and fruit. The section on vegetables being the largest.

The author has given us a mixture of historical information, how-to craft instructions (bird-house, lavender heart with dried flowers), recipes (sweet corn relish, soft fruit jam), and some gardening information.

The many and sometimes large color photos make it a candidate for a coffee table book. There are interesting

reproductions of pictures from Shaker settlements and many quotes from *The Gardener's Manual*.

The bibliography refers to a facsimile edition of *The Gardener's Manual* reprinted from the library at Hancock Shaker Village, Hancock, Massachusetts, 1991, but it is not clear if this is for sale or not.

For those with a curiosity about the Shakers it would be a good book for browsing. It is attractively laid-out.

Reviewed by R. Cox

THE LOUISIANA IRIS: The Taming of a Native American Wildflower

Society for Louisiana Irises

Portland, Timber Press, 2000, 214 pages, 116 color photos, 17 b&w photos, 7 1/8" x 10 1/8", hardcover, \$34.95

Apogon is a beardless iris, one of fifteen Hexagonae series of the iris family, five of which are native to Louisiana and grow in various parts of southeastern United States. In this second edition of the definitive reference volume for these plants, local gardeners will find much information about a beautiful and varied species but little of practical value. Never mind, it's a handsome volume that represents a lot of research into the history, classification, propagation, culture, and landscape uses of its subject plant. Perhaps unusual for such a scholarly volume is the final chapter on flower arrangements. Color plates, black and white photos, and line drawings illustrate the textbook format.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

TREES AND SHRUBS OF CALIFORNIA

John Stuart and John O. Sawyer

Berkeley, University of California Press, 2001, 479 pages, 40 color illustration, 207 line illustrations, 313 maps, 5" x 7 1/4", hardcover \$45, softcover \$22.50

If you are looking for a good field manual to carry along on any plant exploration trip that would include a wide area of California's coastal strip, north to south, then this book is for you. There are 368 taxa covered in very good detail. In that there are several thousand plants to choose from within California, it is evident that it is limited in its range. For example, there are several taxa from San Diego county that have been omitted (*Euphorbia misera*, *Mirabilis californicum*, *Cneordium dumosum*, and others). There are no cultivars (as the title indicates) just the native plants to be found in the wild in California.

It is still a good field manual with excellent key sections. There are ninety pages covering conifers at the beginning with easy to follow keys.

Reviewed by Don Miller

THE SAGE GARDEN: Flowers and Foliage for Health and Beauty

Ann Lovejoy, Photographs by Grey Crawford

San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 2001, 144 Pages, 31 color photos, 7 1/4" x 8 1/4", hardcover, \$17.95

Sages have become the favorites of perennial gardens all

over the world, it seems, and this handsome little book is a fine guide to using them ornamentally as well as functionally.

The author has divided the various species into small sub-groups for planting in meadows or borders, as bedding plants, or for late blooming color in the garden. She also offers suggestions for planting to attract birds and bees. Each of these sections has ideas for using a particular species in the garden and includes "pleasing partnerships," other plants to be grown nearby. Each section is accompanied by handsome full page color photos of the plants in the garden, as well as more botanical images defining the characteristics of specific blooms.

The second half of the book presents recipes for cooking with sage and methods of preparing sages for health and beauty aids. Many recipes require only a small amount of sage, somewhat in the manner of "stone soup," but still, they are interesting and appetizing just the same. A more unusual use of sages is for ceremonial "smudges," the burning of sage leaves to cleanse a troubled environment. Used by native peoples in many regions of the world, smudging entails specific methods of gathering and preparing the sage leaves. The author also provides details of smudging ceremonies.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

PAINTING FLOWERS IN WATERCOLOR: A Naturalistic Approach

Coral G. Guest

Portland, Timber Press, 2001, 128 pages, color throughout, 8 1/2" x 10 3/4", softcover, \$19.95

A beautifully produced and practical approach to the artistic representation of flowers makes this a valuable book for students of painting at any level. The author starts at the very beginning with a discussion of the effects of light, soil, and the seasons on potential flower subjects, whether potted or cut. She explores all the possibilities for containers and other factors influencing the results of the work at hand. Anyone who has attempted to paint flowers can relate to this because these are subjects that just do not hold position or color for very long.

Work-space, tools, equipment, and plant material are considered, as are the many characteristics and techniques of watercolor painting in general. Guidelines for drawing and composition are also covered in effective detail, all in preparation for finally getting paint to paper.

The second half of the book is a series of painting lessons, using floral subjects of varying complexity, from a simple tulip to a really complicated delphinium, all rendered in careful and colorful detail. The artist's own works serve as models, with complete information about color selections, preliminary drawings and studies, also descriptions of the plant subjects themselves, their history, and growing habits.

The artist-author's affinity for plants is expressed throughout and her imagination could be contagious. As with many experts, she makes it look very easy, but that should only encourage anyone to give it a try.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones



SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

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619/232-5762, located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

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April 16

June 18

October 15

Casa del Prado, Room 101

Balboa Park, San Diego

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Sweetwater Road

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Reynolds 619-435-0949

4th Monday - 9:30 am, Winn Room,

Coronado Public Library

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2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB

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3rd Fri - 12:30 pm, Escondido Joslyn Center

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Co-Pres: Jane McKee 760-728-6373

3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, FPUD Bldg on Mission Rd

Last Thu - 9:30 am, Fallbrook Presbyterian

Church on Stage Coach

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Chrm: Jean Kauth 858-452-8686

2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Carolyn Doggett 858-488-5853

E-mail: cmdoggett@cs.com

3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J. Lutheran Church

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4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo

Library (new), 2nd floor

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MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB

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College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)

Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY

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4th Wed - 6:30 pm

Oct thru Mar - Methodist Church at Lark and

Fort Stockton

Apr thru Sep - Mission Hills Nursery

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2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Masonic Hall

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Church, LJ

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY 619-222-1294

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY 619-262-7535

Pres: Michael Ludwig

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HON NON BO ASSOCIATION

Pres: Lit Phan

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SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.

Information Telephone 619-699-8776

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Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am

before meeting

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Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Wed

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Quail Gardens

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Quail Gardens

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E-mail: srocha@pacbell.net

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IRIS SOCIETY 818-986-4188

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SAN DIEGO CHAPTER 619-685-7321

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3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Women's Club

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Pres: Gary Pierwola 619-426-9108

E-mail: keikiman@aol.com

1st Tues - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

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Casa del Prado, Room 104

Information: Ken Ames 858-454-5475

E-mail: kenaspumeria@aol.com

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Gardens of Members

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Jan/Feb - 4th Mon

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FAX 619-687-0151

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SOCIETY 619-465-3800

President: Bob Harris

3rd Sun - Apr thru Oct

Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates
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Deadline for Mar-Apr issue: Jan 15, 2002

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year? It should be "camera ready" (suitable to be sent to printer). The text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.5 (3½) inches wide by 2.25 (2¼) inches high. If done on a computer, please use a font that does not resemble typewriting.



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KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate \$65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909-1939

- ☐ \$21.00 non-members (book, tax, mailing)
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The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only \$10.00 (single membership) or \$12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:



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3rd Annual San Diego Horticultural Society Gala **Preview to the Spring Home/Garden Show**

Thursday, Feb. 28, 6:00 p.m.

Members: \$75, Non-members: \$85

(\$10 higher after Feb. 15th)

- ☆ Be the first to see the gardens of the **Spring Home/Garden Show**
- ☆ Celebrate SDHS's Horticulturist of the Year: *Walter Andersen*
- ☆ Be the first to learn the winners of the Garden Master Awards
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